

YOUR GUIDE TO



Garden Party
etiquette

GROW
HOPE

The mystery of modern manners, unravelled

HOLDING DOORS OPEN FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

SAYING THANK YOU TO THE CHECKOUT CLERK AT COLES.

GIVING UP YOUR SEAT ON THE TRAIN OR TRAM.

MODERN MANNERS. SOOOO OVERRATED, AREN'T THEY?

UM, NO!

BEING POLITE AND COURTEOUS CAN GET YOU FAR. WHETHER YOU WANT TO MINGLE WITH YOUR OFFICE HEAD HONCHO OR MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS, GOOD MANNERS WILL GET YOU THERE. LET US SHOW YOU HOW.



Grooming and attire



Personal grooming is key in any social situation:

- A spray of deodorant
- A splash of cologne or perfume
- Clean socks

Basically, the whole shebang.

Whether your workplace is hosting a low-key Garden Party or an all-out affair, there are plenty of ways to dress up or dress down your outfit to suit the occasion.

Remember chaps, cravats are to garden parties what tomato sauce is to pies.

And ladies, a pretty pashmina will glam up any outfit.

Look good, feel good and party with a passion this winter!

Light bites



Mmm, party food. So tasty, so delicious and so more-ish. But, wait!

Before you slip into overindulgence and morph into 'that guy' tucking in over-zealously, here are some tips to keep your dining manners in check.

Napkins and plates

Use them. That is all.

Canapés

1. Small canapés should be eaten in one graceful mouthful. You don't want to be holding on for dear life to five broken bits of a water cracker.
2. If a canapé looks messy or challenging and you're in company, politely decline. If you're on your own or can make a quick exit to the corridor, snap it up! We wouldn't deny you a tasty treat!

3. A) If you've just been introduced to someone, don't take that as an opportunity to stuff a giant salmon crostini in your mouth. Barter first. Crostini after.
B) If you have to chew extensively mid-conversation, you've not done it right and this was obviously a large canapé, made to be eaten in two parts.
4. Indulge in your canapés for longer by asking guests lots of 'open questions', without simple yes/no answers. Sneaky, true...but it does the trick.

Our top canapé no-nos

1. Don't abandon whoever you're talking to just so you can chase a tray of canapés around the room. It's not a good look.
2. Eyeing up those spring rolls and sweet chilli dip? Have the urge to double dip? DON'T DO IT!
3. Grabbing a huge handful of canapés each time they come around? Tut-tut. Gluttony is a sin, dear friends.

Mingling



Mingling

Oh, small-talk. How we love you (Note: heavy sarcasm).

Wood

The first thing to remember when you arrive at your Garden Party is to leave your angst at the door. If you've been having a stressful day and are feeling really wound up, you won't have fun at the party (and neither will anyone else who talks to you!). Take a breather before you get there and de-brief beforehand with a trusted colleague or friend so you arrive at the Garden Party in a great mood.

The social butterfly

Once at the party, try not to stick to the same group of friends; this is a brilliant opportunity to meet new people, so get in there! Be upbeat and keep the conversation flowing by talking about things everyone can pitch in about – current affairs, pop culture, what people have got planned for their weekends and so on.



Be inclusive

If you see someone standing on their own, invite them into the conversation. Break the ice by asking them what department they work in or how long they've been at the company.

Stay in the moment!

Give whoever you're talking to your full attention. Be genuinely interested in them and ask questions. Don't make them feel terrible by constantly looking around to see if there's 'anyone better' worth talking to. Although, if you do need an escape route, plan it beforehand. Maybe there's a business call you've just got to make, oh, right about now. But more often than not, perseverance will pay off. Small-talk can be awkward at the beginning but who knows where a new conversation can veer off to – you may find out you're huge fans of the same band or have hobbies in common.

Post-party etiquette

After a legendary party, always remember to thank your hosts, whether that's your social committee or other colleagues. They've put on a great event and deserve some praise!



For a cancer-free future,
party with a passion this winter.